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Executive Summary

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AS220'S BROAD STREET COMMUNITY STUDIO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AS220's Broad Street Community Studio is an arts education program that targets youth from the Rhode Island Training School, a juvenile detention and correctional facility. The program will serve minimum of 40-48 students during the its first year, helping them develop artistic proficiency, critical thinking skills, and design and marketing acumen in workshops taught by professional performing and visual artists. The curriculum of the Broad Street Studio is structured around the vocational skills and creative sensibilities that professional artists use in their careers. By approaching the arts as a career opportunity, participants will recognize their own creativity and develop a positive sense of self-worth and constructive means of expression. AS220's Broad Street Studio will use several different strategies to reach its goals: orientation and introductory classes, a rigorous application process, intense structured interdisciplinary workshops, and strong assessment and evaluations of students and the program itself.

The Broad Street Studio program will begin with an orientation class and a series of introductory workshops while students are still at the Rhode Island Training School prior to formal program admission. The orientation class and the introductory workshops will expose students to a variety of media and artistic traditions, demystify the language and materials used by artists and introduce students to the instructors they will meet at the Broad Street Studio.

Students who respond well to the orientation class and introductory workshops will be placed in the Broad Street Studio upon release from the Rhode Island Training School. The Broad Street Studio will be an intense after-school learning environment which will use the arts to access several different levels of intelligence through music, dance, poetry, drawing, computer graphics, printmaking and painting among other things.

The Broad Street Studio will not function as a drop-in center; participants will be required to attend for three months, from 3:30-5:30pm weekdays and 1:00-4:00pm Saturdays, for a minimum of 180 contact hours. Each student will participate in three month-long artist-led workshops which will focus on a variety of technical skills and artistic outlets. Individual mentoring sessions with professional artists will last for one hour each week. Students will also design, produce and market products as part of a design and marketing team that will generate income for the studio, and go through a personal evaluation with a committee of artists, staff, participating organizations, and program participants.

Students will have many opportunities to stay plugged into Broad Street Studio after they have completed the program, remaining connected to a community that they can help shape and construct, working with peers and mentors who will aid in their development and track their progress.

The Broad Street Studio program will be considered a success if participants do not return the Rhode Island Training School. It will also be considered a success if students remain engaged in the program after their three month session has been completed. And, ultimately, the Broad Street Studio program will be considered a success if the studio continues to grow and expand, forming a new youth-based artistic community on Broad Street.

Goals:

- To reduce the recidivism rate at the Rhode Island Training School
- To introduce positive outlets for expression and entrepreneurial development
- To draw upon the participants' existing skills and help make them more competitive for employment

Objectives:

- To keep all of the participants out of the Rhode Island Training School for at least the duration of our program (3 months) and to track them for the rest of the year
- To guide the participants in developing their own portfolio of work that represents their full potential
- To provide a program with high quality instruction and engagement for participants to develop artistic proficiency and professional skills in the arts
- To give the participants some ownership in the development of AS220's Broad Street Studio projects